

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th March 1895.

CONTENTS:

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
The Armenian atrocities	199	A railway station wanted in the Mymensingh district	ib
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		Train service on the southern section of the Eastern Bengal Railway line	ib
(a)—Police—		A bund in the Murshidabad district	206
The new rule relating to the investigation of cases	ib	(h)—General—	
Thefts in Vikrampur in the Dacca district	ib	Outstills in the district of Bankura	ib
Oppression by grass-cutters at Mahestala	ib	III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
Forcible abduction of a young woman in the Tangail sub-division of the Mymensingh district	ib	The Police Act Amendment Bill	ib
The Mahestala affair	200	The Police Act Amendment Bill	207
(b)—Working of the Courts—		The Calcutta and Suburban Police Acts Amendment Bill	ib
The case of Miss Joyce of Gaya	ib	The Bengal Sanitary Drainage Bill	ib
The Nator case	ib	The Bengal Sanitary Drainage Bill	ib
Delay in the court of the Deputy Magistrate of Kishorganj	201	The Bill to amend the Calcutta and Suburban Police Acts	ib
The Sherpur Criminal Court	ib	The Lepers Bill	ib
A Munsifi in the Murshidabad district	ib	The Police Act Amendment Act	208
The High Court in the Nator case	ib	The Bill to amend the Police Demands Recovery Act	209
A Magistrate insulting a Deputy Magistrate	ib	The Police Act Amendment Bill passed	ib
The Azimganj Munsifi in the Murshidabad district	ib	The Police Act Amendment Bill	ib
Mr. Radice in Mymensingh	202	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The road cess question in the Bankura district	ib	The native state of Nagoda	210
Licenses for fire arms in Dacca	ib	Independent Tippera	ib
Mr. Radice	203	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Loss of public confidence in the High Court	ib	Nil.	
(c)—Jails—		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Nil.		Vaccination and inoculation	211
(d)—Education—		Pigeon shooting at Ballygunge	ib
Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Kanta Tarkalankar	204	The suppression of the Pakur practice	ib
Questions in the English paper at the last B.A. examination	ib	The Pakur practice	ib
The conic sections paper at the F.A. examination	ib	The Pakur custom	ib
Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chandra Nyayaratna	205	The question of the court language in Sambalpur	ib
Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chandra Nyayaratna	ib	ASSAM PAPERS.	
Varying results of the University examinations	ib	The Chief Commissioner's visit to Sylhet	212
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		The water-works scheme in Sylhet	ib
Want of a burning ghat within the Berhampore Municipality	ib	URIYA PAPERS.	
(f)—Questions affecting the land—		Nil.	
Taxation of ghatwali lands in the district of Bankura	ib		

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677	1st March 1895.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	" 5,000	1st ditto.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 20,000	2nd ditto.	
3	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	1st ditto.	
4	"Jnándáyiká" ...	Ditto	.....		
5	"Mihir" ...	Ditto	.....		
6	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	" 500	27th February 1895.	
7	"Samay" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	1st March 1895.	
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	" 3,000	2nd ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	" 800	4th ditto.	
10	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	" 3,000	1st ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	" 200	27th February to 2nd March and 5th to 7th March 1895.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto	" 200	3rd to 7th March 1895.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	" 500	2nd and 5th to 7th March 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	" 200		
5	"Sulebh Dainik" ...	Ditto	" 1,000	28th February to 2nd March and 4th to 6th March 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" 800	28th February 1895.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 9,000		
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....	23rd February and 2nd March 1895.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	.....	.....	Defunct.
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	" 400		
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto	" 300	28th February 1895.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Basana" ...	Chinsura ...	400		
2	"Purnima" ...	Hooghly ...	500		
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	" 500	1st March 1895.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	" 298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	26th February 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	600	3rd March 1895.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....	3rd ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	22nd February and 1st March 1895.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		
2	"Sat Sanga" ...	Murshidabad	200		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	280	27th February 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Patrika" ...	Ditto	350		
3	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200	1st March 1895.	
4	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	1st ditto.	
5	"Samaj-o-Sahitya" ...	Garibpur, Nadia	1,000		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
URIYA.						
ORISSA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Cuttack ...	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.	
Weekly.						
1	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190			This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309			
3	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412			
4	"Sambalpur Patriot" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....		
HINDI.						
PATNA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500			
Weekly.						
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	2nd March 1895.		
URDU.						
Weekly.						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	7th February 1895.		
2	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150			
3	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400			
BENGALI.						
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.						
Weekly.						
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....		27th February 1895.	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283			
3	"Rangpur Diprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.	
BENGALI.						
DACCA DIVISION.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280			
2	"Bangabandhu" ...	Dacca ...	250			
Weekly.						
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	26th February 1895.		
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450			
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Ditto ...	250	2nd March 1895.		
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	500	28th February 1895.		
5	"Bharatvasi" ...	Dacca ...	500			
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Ditto ...	500	4th March 1895.		
BENGALI.						
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.						
Weekly.						
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120			
BENGALI.						
ASSAM.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	240	For the second fortnight of Magh and first fortnight of Fulgun 1301 B S.	* Entries based on information supplied by the Deputy Postmaster-General, Assam.	
2	"Srihattavasi" ...	Ditto ...	* 160			
Weekly.						
1	"Assam" ...	Gauhati ...	700*			

I.—FOREIGN POLICE.

The *Sudhakar* of the 1st March has the following:—

The Armenian atrocities.

The accounts that are being given of the Armenian atrocities are, as we have observed before, overcoloured as a whole, and utterly unfounded as regards some of the particulars. The Sultan's administration of the territories under him is not inferior in any respect to that of any European Power; it is rather superior in many respects to the administrations of those Powers. Teki Pasha, the Governor of Armenia, is a man of a tender conscience and gentle disposition, and it is impossible to believe that he could have ordered the Turkish soldiers to shoot down the Armenians. The rumour of outrages upon Armenian women is also utterly unfounded. How unfounded the statements of the agitators are will appear from the fact that they variously state the number of slaughtered Armenians as 10,000, 6,000 and 2,000, and say that 48 villages have been laid waste in a district which does not in reality contain half so many villages.

The Armenians have always been dissatisfied with Turkish rule, and they have themselves to thank for their recent sufferings. It is very wrong on the part of the agitators to raise a hue-and-cry without taking any note of this fact. On a subject like this we ought not, we feel, to say anything. But the manner in which the Sultan and the Musalmans are being painted pains us too much to allow us to remain silent. We are grieved and astonished at the conduct of the English people in this connection.

SUDHAKAR,
March 1st, 1895.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 26th February says that by taking the power of investigating cases from the hands of head constables and entrusting it to Sub-Inspectors, Mr. Henry, Inspector-General of Police, has deserved the thanks of the public.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 26th, 1895.

3. The *Vikrampur* of the 28th February draws the attention of the Subdivisional Officer of Munshiganj in the Dacca district to the prevalence of thefts in Vikrampur, and requests him, if, like the Deputy Magistrates in some other districts, those in the Dacca district have not been hampered in the exercise of their authority over the police, to keep an eye on the work of the police. The crime has become particularly rife within the jurisdiction of the Srinagar thana, where thefts are committed even in houses whose owners live abroad, leaving very inconsiderable property therein and one or two men in charge thereof. It is necessary for the police to keep a sharp watch on the manner in which the panchayets and chaukidars do their duties.

VIKRAMPUR,
Feb. 28th, 1895.

3½. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 1st March says that the local police is still enquiring into the acts of oppression committed by military grass-cutters at Mahestala in the 24-Parganas district; but in the meantime news of fresh acts of oppression by them has come from a village five miles distant from Mahestala. The grass-cutters are seen to depart every day with sugarcane and other things taken from the fields.

HITAVADI,
March 1st, 1895.

4. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd March says that at 10 P.M., on the night of the 24th February last, a woman about seventeen or eighteen years of age, residing in Sankrail in the Tangail sub-division of the Mymensingh district, was forcibly taken away from her house by some badmashes. Some of the villagers chased the badmashes, but as the latter were more numerous than themselves, they had to give up the chase.

SANJIVANI,
March 2nd, 1895.

The correspondent reports the following conversation as having taken place between the man who went to the thana to give information of the

occurrence and the head-constable, who was in charge of the thana in the absence of the daroga:—

Head-constable.—What is the age of the woman who has been carried off?

Complainant.—About 17 or 18 years.

Head-constable.—How does she look?

Complainant.—Very fair.

Head-constable.—There is nothing unusual about a fair woman of seventeen or eighteen being carried off. What is there to investigate in this case? If it had been a case of theft of property, we might have called the old offenders to account for it.

Quite so; what investigation are the poor police folk to make in such a case as this! The complainant was wrong in troubling the police at such an hour of the night. Government pays the police in order to enjoy undisturbed sleep at night.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 5th, 1895.

5. The *Dainik-o-Shamachar Chandrika* of the 5th March writes thus:—

The Mahestala affair.

Seeing the authorities doing nothing to prevent military grass-cutters in Mahestala from cutting grass which is private property, the people of that place at last took the law into their own hands. Recently, one day, ten grass-cutters accompanied by a sowar entered on the property of a man who protested against such trespass. His remonstrances failing to produce any effect, he called in some villagers, and a fight ensued, in which one grass-cutter was killed, another was severely wounded, and two others received slight injuries. The villagers cannot, however, be blamed for this, for they have been trying their best for a long time to draw the attention of the authorities to the oppressions which are committed by the grass-cutters. It is probable that after this occurrence the Commander-in-Chief will issue a circular in regard to military grass-cutting, similar to that which His Excellency has issued regarding hunting excursions by soldiers.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AL PUNCH,
Feb. 7th, 1895.

6. *Al Punch* of the 7th February says that Mr. Holmwood, District

The case of Miss Joyce of Gaya.

Judge of Gaya, was wrong in calling for an explanation from the Munsif of that place for summoning Miss Joyce as a witness. Miss Joyce is not a *purdanishin* woman, nor was she physically incapable of attending the Court. May it be asked how Miss Joyce got access to the Tikari Raj, and what salary she draws as tutor of the minor Maharaja? These two questions must be answered.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 26th, 1895.

7. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 26th February has the following on the High Court's decision in the Nator case:—

The Natore case.

The Hon'ble Judges of the High Court firmly believe in the Raja's complicity in the case, but even this opinion of the High Court has not removed the writer's doubts. He cannot see from the depositions of the witnesses on behalf of the prosecution, why the Raja should have treated Dr. Ganga Govind in the way he is alleged to have done. To say that his delay in coming to the Rajbari was the reason why he was subjected to this treatment at the hands of the Raja is to ascribe a very inadequate motive for the action. If it had been said that the delay made the Raja angry, and he therefore committed an assault on the prosecutor, the writer would have seen nothing to disbelieve in the statement; but having regard to the fact that the Raja is a rich man, it is difficult to see why he should have extorted a hand-note from the prosecutor for the paltry sum of Rs. 5,000, and the more so as the mere fact of possessing a hand-note would not have entitled him to the money. To believe Ganga Govind's story is to suppose that the Raja, his son, and his dewan, and other high officers, were all ready to perjure themselves in a court of law for a paltry sum. All things considered, it is reasonable to suppose that if it was the Raja's object to extort money from the medical officer, he would not have allowed the note to be drawn in favour of his son. It seems to the writer that the prosecution has either held back something or told an entirely false story. There is a strong feeling of enmity between the two sections of the Nator family, and it is for this reason that the writer hesitates to accept the doctor's story as true. However, he is glad to see the Raja acquitted.

8. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 26th February says that at Kishorganj, in the district of Mymensingh, people lodging complaints before the Deputy Magistrate have to wait for several days before their depositions are taken; and the mukhtars who enquire of the Deputy Magistrate when they may expect the depositions of their clients to be taken, are treated by him with discourtesy and incivility.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 26th, 1895.

9. A correspondent of the same paper says that at Sherpur in the Jamalpur sub-division of the Mymensingh district, people lodging complaints in the local criminal court have to wait for six or seven days before their depositions are taken down. Again, the arrangement under which people living within a distance of a mile or two from Jamalpur are required to go to Sherpur, nine or ten miles from their villages, for the purpose of lodging complaints, causes great hardship to many, and is very objectionable. These people should at least be allowed to lodge their complaints in whichever court they like to do so.

CHARU MIHIR.

10. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 27th February says that if the number of cases in the Azimganj Munsifi in the district of Murshidabad is found to be small, and if the jurisdiction of the Munsifi is not increased, then instead of making the Munsif of Azimganj work both at that place and at Kandi, the jurisdictions of both the Lalbagh and Azimganj Munsifis should be amalgamated, and a sub-divisional head-quarters containing a Munsif's Court should be established at some central place. If this be found inconvenient, then the Munsif's Courts at Lalbagh and Azimganj should be abolished, and their jurisdictions amalgamated with that of the Sadar, a Sadar Munsif being required to try the new cases. This will result in some saving to Government.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Feb. 27th, 1895.

11. The *Sahachar* of the 27th February refers to the High Court's decision in the Nator case, and remarks as follows:—
The High Court in the Nator case. Though the Hon'ble Judges who tried the case have acquitted the Raja for want of evidence, they have very little doubt about his guilt. Now, the writer has read the whole of the Sessions Judge's judgment as well as the depositions of the witnesses in this case, but has found nothing in them which can justify the view which has been taken of the Raja's conduct by the Hon'ble Judges. It may be that the Raja was really guilty, but as no trustworthy evidence was recorded against him, their Lordships have acted with doubtful wisdom by freely expressing their suspicions about him. They should have kept their suspicions to themselves, and not given them public expression. In the lower court the two assessors had the advantage of marking the demeanour of the witnesses, and they disbelieved their evidence and held the Raja not guilty; and the Hon'ble Judges would have done the same thing if they had been in their position. However, so far as the Raja is concerned, the High Court has practically accepted the opinion of the assessors. If the case had been tried with a jury and not with assessors, it could not have come before the High Court. It, therefore, behoves the public to respectfully ask Government for an extension of the jury system. As men able and willing to serve as jurors are now available in the mufassal, there can be no objection to such extension.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 27th, 1895.

12. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 28th February has learnt from a correspondent that while the Lieutenant-Governor during his recent tour in Midnapore was inspecting the court of a certain Deputy Magistrate, the Magistrate called the latter a donkey, and similar names, for his failure to reply quickly His Honour's questions. If this is true, it is to be asked if it is gentlemanly for Magistrates to look down in this way upon the Deputy Magistrates.

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 28th, 1895.

13. The *Pratihar* of the 1st March says that the transfer of the Munsif of Domkol-Azimganj in the Murshidabad district to Kandi in the same district, without his place in the former chauki being filled up, means that the abolition of that Munsifi is in contemplation. But before effecting the abolition, Government should consider the difficulty in which the people of

PRATIKAR,
March 1st, 1895.

Domkol-Azimganj will be placed, if they have to come to the sadar for their civil suits, which are far more numerous than the criminal cases. Instead of abolishing this Munsifi, Government would do well to increase its work by transferring to its jurisdiction the area of one thana from the Sadar Munsifi, whose work has become too heavy for one Munsif. And if this scheme does not commend itself to the authorities, they should consider whether the abolition of the Azimganj Munsifi or the abolition of the Lalbagh Munsifi should occasion less inconvenience to suitors.

HITAVADI,
March 1st, 1895.

14. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st March has the following about the doings of Mr. Radice in Mymensingh:—

Mr. Radice in Mymensingh.

The district of Mymensingh, which was once the sporting ground of Mr. Phillips, has now become the sporting ground of Mr. Radice. The latter has not yet forgotten that his punishment was due to the efforts of the people of this country, and that it was a Bengali, the editor of this paper, who published the papers connected with his case, and by that means compromised him before the Bengali public. It is, therefore, no wonder that he should abuse Bengalis whenever he gets an opportunity of doing so. In the course of his judgment in a case he said:—"Under these circumstances I am not surprised that a man born and bred in this country, where truthfulness is not yet looked upon as the first characteristic of a gentleman, should willingly perjure himself." Now a man's birth and breeding are known by his acts, and the Saheb's remarks will not give the least offence to the people of this country. The following statement of Mr. Radice is an admission by himself of the countenance which he gives to police oppression, and affords a proof of the haughtiness which every civilian delights to exhibit:—"Moreover, if a little compulsion of this kind were not brought to bear when the occasion serves, the work of our police would soon come to a stand-still. We are all of us in the daily habit of committing trivial offences of this sort; we offend when we abuse a servant, we offend when we are in camp and our servants compel the local milkman, who refuses to sell his milk out of sheer contrariness, to part with the milk in exchange for pice. The police have constantly to deal with blackguards, and it would be impossible to get on with their work if they are to treat them strictly as if they were honest gentlemen." Now the question is, is the Saheb increasing the prestige of British rule by thus publicly countenancing police oppression? Is his statement untrue that every civilian indulges in acts of *zulum*? What has the Lieutenant-Governor got to say in the matter? Is His Honour prepared to admit that the servants of the civilians commit no offence when they force people to sell their goods to them against their wish? When the writer hears of these illegal acts, he is tempted to ask himself—"Are we really living under British rule?" Police oppression in Mymensingh has increased so much that it is causing uneasiness even to the officers of Government there. People's fear of the police and Mr. Radice's habit of prosecuting witnesses under section 211 or 193 of the Penal Code, for slight discrepancies in their evidence, make it extremely difficult to get up cases against the police. Even Mr. Harding, the District Judge, admits this, and condemns Mr. Radice's method of deciding cases: "I am bound, in the interests of public justice," says he, "to record the strong disapproval of this court of such procedure." Will the Lieutenant-Governor take no steps to put a stop to this state of things? His Honour encouraged Mr. Radice in wrong doing, and Mr. Radice is encouraging the Mymensingh police in committing oppression. But how long, if this state of things lasts, will the people continue loyal to Government? The Lieutenant-Governor should consider all this.

BANKURA DARPAN,
March 1st, 1895.

15. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st March says that now that it has been

The road cess question in the Bankura district.

proved that in consequence of a misinterpretation of the Cess Act, the Revaluation Deputy Collector of Bankura made people to pay the cess at a rate higher than that allowed by the law, it behoves the Collector and the Divisional Commissioner to see that in consideration of these excess payments, deductions are made in the next year's payment of the cess by the people.

SANJIVANI,
March 2nd, 1895.

16. The Dacca correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd March complains that in granting licenses for firearms, Mr. Faulder, Magistrate of Dacca, is restricting their

Licenses for fire arms in Dacca.

use within the limits of the holder's village. Why is Mr. Faulder, of his own motion, adding to the rigour of the already rigorous Arms Act? The people of Dacca should petition Government on the subject.

17. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 4th March cannot understand how the

SULABH DAINIK,
March 4th, 1895.

Mr. Radice.

Lieutenant-Governor is allowing Mr. Radice to act as a Magistrate in Mymensingh, when his administration of criminal justice has been so severely criticised by Mr. Harding, the District Judge. What will become of the administration of the country if His Honour takes every civilian into his favour? Cannot these provinces be governed without the aid of men like Messrs. Radice and Beatson Bell? How many Radices and Beatson Bells are there in the public service in this vast Empire? Not many, to be sure. But the administration of the country is still going on. It is therefore earnestly prayed that the Lieutenant-Governor will prove himself an upright and impartial ruler by punishing these men.

Mr. Radice has said in one of his judgments:—"I am not surprised that a man born and bred in this country, where truthfulness is not yet looked upon as the first characteristic of a gentleman, should willingly perjure himself." Well, a person may tell lies; but what right has Mr. Radice to infer therefrom that the whole country is peopled by liars? If the Lieutenant-Governor takes no notice of such insolence, it will be clear that His Honour is himself one of the class to which Mr. Radice belongs, and therefore, unfit to be the ruler of these provinces. The people of Bengal should not allow such abuse to be showered upon them by a common Englishman who has been fortunate enough to obtain the post of an Indian Magistrate. They should submit a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor protesting against the language which has been used by Mr. Radice; and if that fails, they should submit a petition to the Viceroy. It is doubtful if even the Viceroy, who is merely the executor of the Secretary of State's commands, will redress the wrong. Still the wrong should not be put up with in silence. Let an agitation be set on foot in England; for it is too much for man to bear up with every abuse that anybody may like to shower upon him. The officials in India may be wrong-headed, but there are gods still in England who should be made to understand with what justice and uprightness the Magistrates in India rule the people, and with what loving confidence they regard the latter. If the people of Bengal fail to do this, not only Mr. Radice, but anybody and everybody will look down upon them and call them liars.

"O Lord Elgin, it was expected that under your administration such things would not be seen or heard of. But that expectation is being disappointed. You seem not to have the courage of even a woman. See and hear, and then do what justice you consider fit. You are in charge of over three hundred millions of human beings. If you fail in your duty and fear to punish Mr. Radice, then you have no business to remain here. You should vacate your office of Viceroy and go home to enjoy domestic happiness. The Indians do not want a puppet of a ruler at an annual cost of two-and-a-half lakhs of rupees. It is your duty to wield your power as the head of the Indian administration ought to wield it, and not to sacrifice your own independence and rely entirely upon others. Be a little firm, and then not one Radice, but a hundred Radices will be awakened to a sense of duty, and the country will be administered with justice; and the people will bless you in their inmost hearts. Is it proper to excite disaffection in the minds of millions of your subjects by showing indulgence to an officer like Mr. Radice? Providence has been pleased to give Englishmen sovereignty over the Indians. But he has not certainly given you power to abuse us as you like. You may abuse us here below; but what will you say when you will be called to account before the throne of the Almighty above?"

SULABH DAINIK,
March 5th, 1895.

18. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 5th March says that the people had all Loss of public confidence in the High Court. along confidence in the decisions of the High Court, but latterly the Judges of that Court have, it seems, come to attach more importance to the technicalities of the law, and people are therefore losing their old confidence in their decisions. Witness the three following cases:—

- (1) One Raghunandan, a zamindar in Bihar, found on awaking from sleep one morning that the police were waiting with a warrant to arrest him on a charge of having forcibly taken away one of

his raiyat's crops. He applied to the Magistrate for bail, but bail was refused. He moved the High Court. Mr. Justice Norris agreed with the Magistrate in refusing bail, saying that on one occasion an accused person in England, who had been enlarged on bail, absconded. Nice reasoning this! It would have been somewhat to the point if Mr. Justice Norris had been able to cite a Bengal case. So far as the writer is aware, no such case ever occurred in this province. And supposing such a case to have occurred here, was it proper for Justice Norris to think it possible that a man in Raghunandan's social position would or could abscond? However, the case has ended in Raghunandan being acquitted of the charge which was brought against him. But who is to make amends for the detention of an innocent man in *hajut* before trial?

(2) In the Nator case, Mr. Justice Norris practically upheld the judgment passed by Mr. Palit, the District Judge; yet he discharged the Raja, and convicted Mathura Pal, who being only a servant of the Raja's, could not have committed the crime, if he committed it at all, without the Raja knowing of it.

(3) The writer is glad that in the Tarakeswar case, Babu Kamini Kumar Guha and other respectable men have been proved innocent; but the judgment given by Justices O'Kinealy and Gordon has failed to give him satisfaction. The judgment has been made to rest only upon one point, while the various objections raised against the appellant's case by Mr. Jackson have been simply disregarded and have not been refuted.

(d)—Education.

HITAVADI,
March 1st, 1895.

19. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st March says that in consequence of Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesa Chandra Nyayaratna's retirement, a post in the higher grade of the educational service has fallen vacant, and Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Kanta Tarkalankar should be appointed to it. Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Kanta has written in Sanskrit poems and treatises in rhetoric, philosophy, law (*smriti*) and other subjects of Hindu learning, and yet Government has not up to this time shewn any recognition of his scholarship. His promotion on the present occasion will give satisfaction to the public.

HITAVADI.

20. The same paper says that though of the four text-books in English prose which have been fixed for the B. A. examination, Mr. Morley's "Life of Burke" and Burke's "Regicide Peace" are the most important, yet at the last B. A. examination only one question was selected from the "Life of Burke" and only seven marks were allotted to it. On the other hand, as many as 24 marks were allotted to the question from one of the least important text-books, Cowper's Letters. If the University authorities had been Professors themselves, they would have known how to allot marks to text-books in accordance with their importance. The candidates have to read a large number of books, and they naturally read the more important books with greater care than what they bestow on those less important. In allotting marks to the questions, the examiners should have taken this into consideration.

HITAVADI.

21. A correspondent of the same paper says that notwithstanding the assurance given by the syndicate that questions on conic sections for the F.A. examination of the current year would be such as could be answered both from the old and from the new text-book on the subject, the questions on that subject set at the last examination were for the most part selected from the new text-book. This put the candidates who read the old text-book to great inconvenience. Again, of the five questions, three could not be answered from the old and two from the new text-book, and so all the candidates were put to more or less inconvenience. The syndicate should call on Mr. Booth, who set the paper, for an explanation.

22. The *Banganivasi* of the 1st March testifies to the ability with which Mahamahopadhyaya Mahes Chandra Nyayaratna filled the post of Principal of the Sanskrit College, and says that many debts which the people of Bengal owe to the Mahamahopadhyaya can never be repaid.

BANGANIVASI,
March 1st, 1895.

Mahamahopadhyaya Mahes Chandra Nyayaratna.

23. The *Pratihar* of the 1st March has the following:—

PRATIHAR,
March 1st, 1895.

Mahamahopadhyaya Mahes Chandra Nyayaratna.

The Lieutenant-Governor has issued a notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* bearing testimony to Mahamahopadhyaya Mahes Chandra Nyayaratna's learning, and to the ability and loyalty with which he served Government. His Honour has not also failed to acknowledge the services which have been rendered by the Mahamahopadhyaya to the cause of Sanskrit learning in these provinces. Though some newspapers seem to entertain an extreme dislike for the Pandit, there is no denying that he has rendered many services to his country.

24. A correspondent of the *Darsak* of the 3rd March cannot accept Sir Alfred Croft's explanation that the results of the University examinations vary because the examinees in different years do not attain to an equal standard of excellence; nor can he approve of the employment of the same examining body year after year, because the system savours of a monopoly.

DARSAK,
March 3rd, 1895.

That the results in different years vary owing chiefly to differences in the nature of the questions set, will be clearly proved by a comparison of the questions which were set this year at the Entrance Examination, and which were too difficult for the examinees, with the questions set in previous years. The questions in the English paper were extremely difficult.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

25. The *Pratihar* of the 1st March draws attention to the inconvenience which is felt by the residents of Berhampore for want of a burning ghat within the Berhampore Municipality. The Maharani Swarnamayi sometime ago offered Rs. 4,000 for the construction of such a ghat. What has the Municipality done with the money? If the amount has not yet been taken over from the Maharani why not take it and construct a ghat with it without further delay?

PRATIHAR,
March 1st, 1895.

Want of a burning ghat within the Berhampore Municipality.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

26. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st March says that now that ghatwali lands in the district of Bankura are being assessed to a tax, the question arises—if the incidence of the tax be heavier than the amount which the ghatwals realise as rent from their raiyats, how are they to pay the difference? Again, the ghatwals are being compelled to sign kabuliyats, and refusal to do so has cost many their ghatwalships. What are the poor people to do under the circumstances?

BANKURA DARPAN,
March 1st, 1895.

Taxation of ghatwali lands in the district of Bankura.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

27. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 26th February says that there ought to be a railway station at Dhala in the district of Mymensingh. Dhala has an entrance school and a charitable dispensary, and is therefore visited by a large number of people from neighbouring places. The nearest stations of Gafargaon and Balipara are six and ten miles distant, respectively, from the place, and sick people have to travel these distances on foot in order to come here. It is therefore clear that for want of a railway station at Dhala its charitable dispensary cannot be largely availed of by the local public.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 26th, 1895.

A railway station wanted in the Mymensingh district.

28. The *Sahachar* of the 27th February complains of irregularity in the running of trains in the southern section of the Eastern Bengal line. Though repeatedly written to on the subject, the authorities have done nothing

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 27th, 1895.

Train service on the southern section of the Eastern Bengal Railway line.

to regulate the hours of the trains and to remove the complaints on the score of want of accommodation. The poor clerks who have to come to Calcutta in these trains invariably reach office late, and even the clerks belonging to the Engineering Department of the Eastern Bengal line cannot come to office in time to sign the attendance register. If the railway authorities pay no heed to these complaints, the writer will be obliged to bring the matter to the notice of those above them.

PRATIKAR,
March 1st, 1895.

29. The *Pratihar* of the 1st March draws the attention of Government to the urgent necessity of repairing the *bund* on the river Bhagirathi opposite to Murshidabad. The zamindars and raiyats being themselves not in circumstances to meet the cost of the work, have repeatedly memorialised Government to advance the cost from the public funds, but to no purpose. The repair will not cost more than seven or eight thousand rupees, and if Government cannot undertake it at its own expense, it ought to make the District Board do the work.

(h)—General.

BANKURA DARPAN,
March 1st, 1895.

30. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st March says that Government has again established outstills at certain places in the district of Bankura, and the number of drunkards has therefore increased in these places. Where there is an outstill, there is poverty with the attendant evil of husbands oppressing wives and children crying for food. Nevertheless, Government, it is rumoured, again contemplates opening outstills all over the district, and God grant that the rumour may prove false.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 26th, 1895.

31. The *Charu Mihir* of the 26th February has the following about the Police Act Amendment Bill:—

The Police Act Amendment Bill.

The objections against sections 4 and 5 of the Bill are chiefly three in number, viz., that though ostensibly preventive, they are really punitive in character; that there is nothing in them to prevent Magistrates from abusing the power which it is proposed to confer on them, and that it is unjust and improper to confer on Magistrates powers which ought to be exercised by the courts alone. It is not known whether or not the Select Committee, when amending these sections, took note of these objections; but this much is certain, that their amendments have not removed these objections. Considering that the Resolutions of the Local Governments are nothing but summaries of police reports, and are as such vitiated by the errors which find a place in the latter, the issue of notifications by these Governments, as proposed by the Select Committee, will not be sufficient to remove the misconceptions of the Magistrates. As to Magistrates reconsidering their own decisions in the matter of awarding compensations, it is extremely doubtful whether their sense of self-importance will allow them to do so. In short, the Select Committee's amendments have by no means tended to allay the apprehensions of the public. Again, under the sections in question, even a single individual may be required to bear the cost of an additional police force as well as to give compensation to others. Now, a provision of this nature is absolutely unnecessary, for when the guilt can be fixed on a small number of persons, they ought to be tried by a regular court of justice. There should also be a provision in the Bill under which, when the money collected under section VI is in excess of the amount actually spent in keeping an additional police, the balance should be returned to those from whom it was levied. When the duties of the additional police are done by the regular police of the district, no tax should be levied at all. Again, sections 10 and 11 of the Bill make no distinction between religious and non-religious processions, and empower the police to make rules in connection with both. This is opposed to the order of Parliament, which has entrusted the Government of India alone with the power of making rules and regulations in matters connected with the religion of the people. The writer is glad the native members of the Select Committee have taken exception to these provisions in the Bill, and hopes that the Bill will be withdrawn by Sir Antony MacDonnell.

32. The *Sudhakar* of the 1st March says that the objectionable features of the Police Act Amendment Bill have not been removed in the revision by the Select Committee. The Bill remains as objectionable as before. It is evident that Government wishes to arm the police with unlimited powers, and it is to be feared that the result of this will be that the police will prove a terrible engine of oppression in spite of the safeguards which Government is trying to provide against this.

SUDHAKAR,
March 1st, 1895.

The powers of the police are going to be increased when they should be restricted. This will increase oppression by the police. Government will see in due time that the writer is right in his prophecy.

33. The same paper expresses the desire that the proposed amendment relating to prostitutes in the Calcutta and Suburban Police Acts may not be passed into law, for the writer cannot approve of any measure which may possibly lead to the least oppression of the public.

SUDHAKAR.

34. The *Sanjivani* of the 2nd March gives the substance of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Bill, and observes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,
March 2nd, 1895.

The Bengal Sanitary Drainage Bill.

Considering that bad drainage has, by generating malaria and various other diseases, depopulated the villages which were once prosperous, and rendered other villages uninhabitable, it is time that steps were taken to improve the drainage of local areas. But no new tax ought to be imposed for the purpose on the poor raiyats. The District Boards, which will take the initiative in the matter, should, without raising any objection, pay for drainage improvement out of their own funds. Besides, the provision authorizing the collection of the whole of the proposed cess from the zamindars and empowering the latter to levy the raiyat's share of the same along with the rent, will practically put it into the power of the zamindars to levy the whole of the cess from the raiyats, as they do in the case of the road cess. The writer therefore suggests that the District Boards should commence drainage works with their own funds, and if these prove inadequate, the zamindars and then the Government itself should be required to contribute towards the cost; but raiyats should be totally exempted. But Government fears the zamindars, because they have money to buy the services of those who can fight for them; whilst the raiyats have no one to speak in their favour, no representatives, strictly speaking, in the Legislative Councils, and no public associations to support their cause. The zamindars can therefore compel Government to levy from the raiyats taxes which, under the terms of the Permanent Settlement, ought to be borne by themselves. The Government is undoubtedly a well-wisher of the raiyats, but fear of the zamindars often prevents it from carrying measures which are calculated to benefit them.

35. The *Bangavasi* of the 2nd March says that it is true the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Bill has undergone some modifications in the hands of the Select Committee, but not even the amended Bill will meet with universal approval. Considering that Act III of 1885 is sufficient for the purpose, one fails to see any necessity for the proposed measure.

BANGAVASI,
March 2nd, 1895.

36. The same paper says that the Bill to amend the Calcutta and Suburban Police Acts is open to objection and will do harm if it is passed, because it will empower the police to arrest any woman who may be found talking to a man in a public street. If the object of the Bill be to increase the already boundless powers of the police, nothing need be said on the subject. But would it be advisable to court the disaffection of the subject people? A warm debate took place the other day in the Bengal Council on the Bill, and Sir John Lambert had to give the assurance that, if necessary, the Bill would be withdrawn. It is hoped that Sir John will be true to his word, for great mischief will be done if the Bill is passed.

BANGAVASI.

37. The *Darsak* of the 3rd March fully approves of the Lepers Bill, and meets the objection of those who are taking exception to it on the ground of the distinction it makes between well-to-do lepers and pauper lepers by saying that society has not so much to fear from the former as from the latter. The proposal to apply the

DARSAK,
March 3rd, 1895.

The Lepers Bill.

The Bill to amend the Calcutta and Suburban Police Acts.

Bill, if it is passed, only to municipalities for the present is well advised, for there is now no necessity of applying it to the whole province.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 4th, 1895.

38. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 4th March has the following:—

The Police Act Amendment Act.

By not supporting the proposal to amend the law relating to conjugal rights, or, in other words, encouraging recalcitrant wives to leave their husbands, the Viceroy and his Councillors, and our Lieutenant-Governor too, have earned the thanks of the native community. But the same authorities have passed into law that very rigorous measure, the Police Act Amendment Bill. The former measure has been abandoned on the ground that the people do not want it. And the wonder is that on the same ground the latter measure has not been similarly dealt with. In the case of the Police Act Amendment Bill Government has disregarded the unanimous opinion of the country, and the protest of not one native member of the Council has been heeded. Does the Bill then really possess no bearing on the question of the public weal? In providing for the quartering of extra police, for the levy of its extra cost, for the extra rigour that will have to be applied to recover the cost, for the extraordinary distinction that will have to be made in the exercise of such rigour, and for the import, in an unusual degree, of race considerations in the making of such distinction, is it really the object and the intention of the legislature to secure only official and administrative convenience? Are the interests of the sovereign and the interests of the subject really antagonistic in this case? Is the sovereign put to the necessity of defending himself against the subject? Humouring one party at one moment, coaxing another at another, following a policy of keeping a particular party well in hand according to the exigencies of the hour, and thus strengthening its own position—is this the object which Government has set before itself? And is it for this purpose that such a law has been found necessary? The courts are all yours, and yours are the judges too. Why then do you unlawfully enact laws which must block the path of the judicial administration and fill it with thorns? Is it not, in a manner, an enforcement of martial law that you have now resorted to? The Select Committee made almost no alterations in the Bill. The provision contained in the original Bill that the Magistrate of the district shall do certain acts with the permission of the Local Government was modified by the Select Committee into this, that the Local Government should do those acts. Now, as Government is not an individual, and the Lieutenant-Governor does not do everything with his own hand, the power given to the Local Government will be practically exercised by the District Magistrate. The work of administration is carried on by means of reports, and it is all the same whether you require a thing to be done by the Local Government or by the Magistrate. Of course, it would be a different thing if power were conferred on a law court.

Everybody knows that it is the duty as well as the practice of Government to protect its subjects and promote their welfare, and that it is not its object to harass and oppress them. But the subjects also know well that, owing to various causes, instead of receiving protection they are occasionally subjected to oppression and harassment. This is principally due to the possession and exercise of excessive powers by the Magistrates. And it is because an endeavour is being made by the public to curtail such powers that Government is increasing them. On the side of the people it is all proposal and suggestion, on the side of Government it is complete accomplishment. There is a demand for reducing the powers of the executive and the police, and Government meets it by increasing those powers. Has not this been seen in the riot law? And is not the same thing being done in the Police Bill?

It seems we should not demand or cry out for any improvement or reform. A policy of let alone and passive acquiescence is the best to follow where an attempt at reform is sure to aggravate the evil. The tables are being turned at every step. It is sin, it seems, to protest against official ascendancy. The authorities are for increasing that ascendancy even at the risk of committing occasional oppression. And a measure like the Police Act Amendment Bill could never have become law if there had been no such desire or impression in the mind of the rulers.

39. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 6th March says that Govern- DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 6th, 1895.

The Bill to amend the Public
Demands Recovery Act.

ment is unwilling to amend the really oppressive provisions of the Public Demands Recovery Act. Mr. Buckland said in the Council that it was wrong to object to provisions which had been in force for 15 years. This remark of Mr. Buckland's annoyed Babu Surendranath Banerjee, who said that it was hardly reasonable that defects in the Act should be allowed to remain simply because they had existed for 15 years, and if old provisions were to be retained, there was no need at all of introducing a Bill to amend a law and of appointing non-official members to assist in the framing of laws. But in saying this Babu Surendranath made a mistake. Native members are taken into the Council simply because it looks well to do so. The authorities do not pay any heed to their objections, for they are sure of a majority. When even the good amendments proposed by the Commissioner, Mr. Dutt, are being rejected, what hope is there that those of anybody else will be accepted? With reference to an amendment proposed by Mr. Lal Mohan Ghosh, the Lieutenant-Governor himself declared that care must be taken to see that the proposed law might not become too much of a law, or in other words, that the officials might be able to do what they thought proper without any reference to the law or the law courts. In estates under the management of the Court of Wards, too, arrears of rent will be recovered by the certificate process, and it has been provided that even on attaining majority, a zamindar will be able to keep his estate under the management of the Court of Wards. Who will not keep his estate under the management of the Court of Wards when such facilities will be afforded for the recovery of rent? Both in matters civil and criminal, the powers of the officials are being increased. It is very fine laws that are being made now-a-days. If things go on in this way sometime longer, there will remain no need of maintaining judges and law courts, and the Collector alone will be able to do everything.

40. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 6th March refers to the passing of the Police Act Amendment Bill, and observes as

The Police Act Amendment Bill
passed.

follows:—

The native members of the Viceregal Council, who took exception to some of the provisions of the Bill, were out-voted, and the Bill has become law. The writer is glad to see that the native members had the courage to do their duty. Though defeated, they have gained a moral victory and their self-satisfaction, arising out of a consciousness of having done their duty, will be their reward. The passing of the Bill shows that the reconstituted Councils have been no improvement upon the old ones. The Legislative Councils consist of both official and non-official members. The non-official members always do their duty according to their light, and their views are always approved by the public and the high officials. But the same thing cannot be said of the official members. They cannot establish their views by meeting the objections which are taken to them by their non-official colleagues, and they simply echo the views of those under whom they hold their appointments. Constituted as the Councils are, Government can always do what it likes, and it is useless to oppose its views. Whenever the official members differ in a body from the non-official members, the question on which they differ ought to be referred to Parliament for decision; for as members of Parliament are somewhat liberal-minded, and are not likely to bow to the opinion of the Secretary of State, there is some chance of their judging impartially and doing justice in such cases.

SULABH DAINIK,
March 6th, 1895.

41. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* has the following:—

The Police Act Amendment Bill.

It is not fair that all the inhabitants of a village, without distinction of guilty and innocent, should be made to bear the cost of a punitive police when any disturbance has either taken place or is apprehended in their village. And yet this is the arrangement which actually exists, and the people acquiesce in it without much demur. Everybody must feel that this is an unjust arrangement, and that justice requires that the guilty alone should be made to bear the cost, and that the task of determining who are guilty should be entrusted to a law court. The people acquiesce in the present unjust system because they feel that it is impracticable to distinguish between the innocent and the guilty in a case like this, and because

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

no attempt is made to make such a distinction, but all the villagers are required to pay the cost of maintaining peace, which is their common interest. It is clear that so long as some proper means cannot be devised for finding out the guilty, this arrangement will be preferable to any other.

Sir Antony MacDonnell's amendment proposes to assess the cost of a punitive police on the guilty alone, but who are guilty and who not will be determined by the Magistrate, or, virtually, by the police, which is the Magistrate's oracle. Now, both the Magistrate and the police will in many cases be well or ill-disposed towards particular persons and classes of persons, and injustice will be then inevitable. The provision made in the law that the Magistrate's order will be appealable to the Government will do little or no good practically, for the Government will regard the Magistrate's decision as infallible.

The authorities would, however, have us understand that no mischief need be apprehended from the proposed amendment, because the wicked alone, if any, will suffer under it. We are sorry to see even a man like Mr. Stevens taking this view. If this argument is good for anything, it also dispenses with the necessity of retaining the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure on the statute book, as well as of maintaining the law courts, for it is the wicked alone who commit thefts, murders, and forgeries, and these wicked people may best be left to be dealt with by the police, which will be able to prevent them from committing crimes.

All this has alarmed us. The authorities must surely be considering British dominion in India in danger and the country to be swarming with Nihilists and Socialists. For, except under apprehension of danger, no gentleman could like to countenance oppression, and we know that the authorities are gentlemen. What we therefore suspect in them is their judgment, not their heart. It is owing to an error of judgment that they are trying to increase the powers of the executive and to curtail those of the judiciary.

The strong hallucination under which the Government is labouring will not allow it to listen to reason. It does not therefore pay any heed to what we say. Like a mad man, it mistakes friends for foes and the physician for the assassin.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVADI,
March 1st, 1895.

42. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st March says that even ordinary British subjects enjoy greater freedom and comfort than the native Indian princes, whose happiness and misery depend entirely on the Political Residents, so much so, that the displeasure of the latter costs them at times even their thrones. The writer has learnt that the Raja of Nagoda has been deprived of his administrative powers and forced to take a Musalman dewan, and that a portion of his territories has been annexed. Thus insulted, the Raja has gone to Benares to pass the rest of his days there. In the meantime, a new rule has been established at Nagoda, the old officials of the Raj have been dismissed, and some of the temples within the state have been desecrated. It is very painful to hear of such things at the commencement of Lord Elgin's administration.

SANJIVANI,
March 2nd, 1895.

43. A resident of British Tippera writing in the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd March, about Independent Tippera, says:—

Independent Tippera. There being no treaty between the Maharaja of Independent Tippera and the British Government, whenever the latter tried to extend its power to that state, the Maharaja maintained his independence inviolate by telling it that his state was an independent state. Those were days when the glory of Independent Tippera was untarnished, when the state enjoyed peace, and the Maharaja could repose confidence in his officers. In an evil moment a powerful clique was formed by the amla of the state. As soon as the British Government became aware of the machinations of this clique, it appointed a Political Agent in Tippera. But the clique went on intriguing, so that Independent Tippera is now in a condition in which it only remains for Government to annex it. The correspondent then goes on to show how in spite of the efforts of Government and of the Political Agents to place matters on a satisfactory footing, the Maharaja, influenced by the clique in

question, has disregarded every advice for reform, and dispensed with the services of prime minister after prime minister, though every one of them was thoroughly proficient in the Tippera State affairs and a sincere will-wisher of the Maharaja.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

44. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 26th February says that the prevalence of small-pox in Calcutta at the present time shows that vaccination is no preventive of the disease. Will the authorities now give a trial to inoculation which was formerly practised in the country with satisfactory results?

Vaccination and inoculation.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 26th, 1895.

45. The *Sahachar* of the 27th February refers to the European practice of pigeon-shooting at Ballygunge, and says that sometimes one shot is not sufficient to kill a bird, but in such cases instead of putting an end to its tortures by another shot, it is allowed to linger until it is overtaken by death in due course of time. Will the members of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals pay a visit to the maidan at Ballygunge?

Pigeon shooting at Ballygunge.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 27th, 1895.

46. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 27th February refers to the suppression of the Pakur practice, and says that if the reason of the suppression be the cruelty involved in the practice, then the Hindu practice of sacrificing goats before goddesses, and the Muhammadan practice of sacrificing camels during the *Baqr-Id* should also be suppressed. Milkmen in Bengal Proper, and in the North-Western Provinces also, observe the practice which has been suppressed in Pakur. The suppression involves a violation of the Government's promise of religious neutrality, and has hurt the religious sensibilities of the gowalas of the Sonthal Parganas.

The suppression of the Pakur practice.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Feb. 27th, 1895.

47. The *Bangavasi* of the 2nd March says that though the immemorial custom of having a pig killed by certain animals is looked upon as a religious rite by a large number of Hindus in Pakur in the Sonthal Parganas, the Sub-divisional Officer of that place has, with the approval of the Government of Bengal, issued an order prohibiting the practice. The people of Pakur consider this an interference with their religion, and are therefore greatly agitated. But Lord Landsdowne laid down the principle that the people of this country would not be allowed to indulge in any religious practice which was not sanctioned by British morality, by the morality, that is, which does not consider it cruelty to kill countless animals for the purposes of scientific experiment, but which condemns the sacrifice of even a single pig for the purposes of religion.

The Pakur practice.

BANGAVASI,
March 2nd, 1895.

48. The *Sanjivani* of the 2nd March cannot support those papers which are characterising Government's action in regard to the Pakur pig-killing festival as an interference with the religion of the people. It cannot be the duty of Government to remain indifferent when cruelties and barbarities are perpetrated in the name of religion. If it were so, the practice of *sutte* and the drowning of children at Ganga Saugor would have continued to this day. Government has acted rightly in putting down the barbarous custom at Pakur, which possesses no religious sanction whatever.

The Pakur custom.

SANJIVANI,
March 2nd, 1895.

49. A Uriya writes as follows in the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 2nd March protesting against the order of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces that Hindi shall be the court language of Sambalpur instead of Uriya:—

The question of the Court language in Sambalpur.

SULABH DAINIK,
March 2nd, 1895.

Sambalpur, the capital of ancient Orissa, together with the adjacent localities, was transferred in 1862, for administrative convenience, from the jurisdiction of Orissa to that of the Central Provinces, and Hindi was appointed as the court language of the district in the place of Uriya. But various inconveniences having been experienced, and the Uriya residents of the district having objected to the continuance of Hindi as the court language, Government appointed Uriya as the court language of the district in 1865, since which time it has remained the court language of Sambalpur.

The Chief Commissioner's arguments for the appointment of Hindi as the court language of the district are as follows:—

(1) The court language of Sambalpur being different from that of all other districts in the Provinces, serious administrative inconvenience is experienced, and the work of the police is done in an unsatisfactory manner, so that the Inspector-General of Police of the Provinces and the Commissioner and the Judicial Commissioner have recommended that Hindi should be appointed as the court language of Sambalpur.

But considering that Hindi had once before to be discontinued as the court language on account of the inconvenience that was experienced, the Chief Commissioner should not have passed the order without consulting the local public on the subject.

(2) Improved facilities of railway communication between Sambalpur and the other districts of the Central Provinces make it desirable that the court language of Sambalpur should be the same as that of the other districts.

But if this argument is good for anything, it will demonstrate the necessity of appointing Bengali as the court language of Orissa, when Calcutta will be connected with Madras by rail.

(3) When the *amlas* of Sambalpur will have learned Hindi, they can be promoted to higher posts in the adjacent districts.

But it will be difficult, nay, almost impracticable for Uriyas to vie in a knowledge of Hindi with those whose vernacular it is, and even if a few among them be so fortunate as to achieve this difficult feat, what guarantee is there that they will be so promoted? Uriya and Bengali are very closely related languages, and yet none among the Uriyas who have studied Bengali have been able to attain to a mastery of it equal to that of a Bengali.

(4) Uriya is the mother-tongue of only a fifth of the population of Sambalpur, and even that small fraction of the population speak not pure Uriya, but an impure sort of Uriya, containing an admixture of Hindi or the dialect spoken in Chhatisgarh.

Now, the statement that only a fifth of the population are Uriyas may be true as regards the town of Sambalpur, but it is not certainly true as regards the district as a whole. Uriyas dislike to live in towns, and they never bring their women there. The Uriyas living in the town of Sambalpur are not permanent residents of the district.

As regards the character of the Uriya that is spoken in Sambalpur, the higher classes speak pure Uriya. The lower classes, indeed, like the lower classes everywhere else, speak a language which is slightly adulterated. But Government is responsible for this; for this adulteration could not have taken place if Sambalpur had not been separated from Orissa.

If any administrative inconvenience is felt on account of retaining Uriya as the court language of Sambalpur, that district may be reunited to the Cuttack or Khajul district of Orissa. Facilities of communication between Sambalpur and Orissa have now considerably improved. If Sambalpur is, therefore, reunited to Orissa, no administrative inconvenience will arise, and the people of Sambalpur will not be at the same time deprived of their mother-tongue. It is to be regretted that the English Government, which is devising so many means to spread education among the people, is going to deprive a people of their mother-tongue.

ASSAM PAPERS.

SRIHATTAVASI,
Second fortnight of
Falgun.

50. The *Srihattavasi* for the second fortnight of Magh and the first fortnight of Falgun praises the Chief Commissioner for the courtesy he showed to the gentlemen who assembled to receive him on the occasion of his recent visit to Sylhet, but blames the Deputy Commissioner for not having provided a place where the gentlemen in question could wait without being exposed to the sun till the Chief Commissioner's arrival.

SRIHATTAVASI.

51. The same paper has the following in reference to the water-works scheme in Sylhet:—

The water-works scheme in
Sylhet.

The income of the Sylhet Municipality amounts to Rs. 25,000 per annum, of which Rs. 10,000 has to be spent annually for cleansing drains, for scavenging, and

for keeping an establishment of servants, &c., and Rs. 6,000 for collecting rates, for lighting, for maintaining schools, pounds, charitable dispensaries, &c. There remains only Rs. 9,000, and if out of that Rs. 4,000 or thereabouts is granted annually for the working of the water-works, there will remain the very small and inadequate balance of only Rs. 5,000 for the construction, repair, &c., of thirty miles of roadway.

The writer would ask the District Engineer to supply the rate-payers, whose money is going to be spent on the water-works, with answers to the following questions—

(1) Whether the apparatus with which he wants to excavate the wells is sufficient for the purpose.

(2) Whether the apparatus is not too old to be of any use.

(3) Whether the use of such apparatus will not endanger the lives of the labourers.

(4) Whether there is any certainty of pure water being found underneath the soil.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 9th March 1895.

